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P.O. Box 708
Girdwood, AK 99587
December 16, 2005

John Tolley, DOT/PF Planning Director
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Re: Seward Highway Improvements

Dear Mr. Tolley,

It has come to my attention that the Seward Highway improvements south of the Potter Section House have been dropped from the STIP. If this is true, you have just signed the death warrant for even more innocent Alaskans.

This stretch of highway, which I commute every day, is one of the most dangerous, if not the most dangerous, in the state. Every year it claims folks who don't deserve to die. Friends like Diane Bahnson who was just driving home from the airport when another driver crossed into her lane and struck her head on.

William Chadwick, our fire chief, likens this stretch of the Seward Highway to the road to Baghdad Airport "in injuries and fatalities." "It may be the riskiest thing that many Alaskans do regularly," he wrote in a recent letter to the editor. Chadwick is not exaggerating. The little community of Girdwood is rapidly changing and is on the verge of explosive growth. The problems with the Seward Highway are only going to get worse – much, much worse – as Girdwood doubles in population over the next few years.

Your department claims your number one target is to "reduce highway fatality rate by 2%." The best place to start is the Seward Highway south of the Potter Section House. Thank you for your consideration.



Lana Johnson
Girdwood commuter

:cc Jeff Otteson, DOT/PF Deputy Commissioner
Rep. Mike Hawker
Sen. Con Bunde
Mayor Mark Begich

Received
12/21/05 sw